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Hongkong, 9th May, 1889.

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A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
Hongkong, May, 1889.

**THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH**

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1889.

At a duly advertised meeting of the

Justices of the Peace the other day, held to

consider an application for a spirit license,

only one of the local "great unpaid"

turned up, and he was a Government

Official. There may not be a great deal

of honour attached to the title of "J. P.,"

but, however small, we think that no man

should be placed in the list of Justices who

does not make some attempt to justify his

position. It is notorious that at meetings

of the Bench there are seldom enough

members present to form a quorum, or at

all events to make the business in hand

anything but a farce. We don't exactly

know what are the special qualifications

necessary for a Justice of the Peace in

this colony, and after a careful perusal

of the latest published list of gentlemen

constituting "the Bench," we are quite at

a loss to understand on what principle the

selection is made. If social status is the

qualification, there are numbers of persons

omitted who ought to find a place on the

list, and the same remark applies if the

raison d'être is local influence or special

ability. It is really difficult to make out

why a mere clerk to a firm of merchants,

brokers or any other trading concern, who

possesses neither influence nor position in

the colony, should be made a Justice of

the Peace, while various reputable mer-

chants and brokers who possess both these

qualifications, are totally ignored. We

duties, their names should be at once struck off the roll, and we would suggest that a return be at once called for of the attendances at the various meetings held for the past twelve months, and as visiting Justices to the Gaol, etc. If the Bench of Justices is to continue a cumbrous and practically useless anomaly, it should be abolished without delay and its functions transferred to the Police Magistrates, who, in point of fact, have for a long time past almost entirely performed whatever work has cropped up.

In glancing through the published list of Justices we observe that the members of two or three special professions are rigidly excluded, for reasons it would be interesting to know. There are Government officials in large numbers, merchants, ship-owners, bank managers and assistants, doctors, barristers-at-law, land-grabbers, company promoters, brokers, engineers, clerks, architects and surveyors, store-keepers, and some Chinese gentlemen who are generally described as 'compradores'; but, singularly enough, the Fourth Estate is unrepresented and there is not a single solicitor on the roll. Arelawyers and newspaper proprietors and editors disqualified for the Bench of Justices? If so, why? To any person of ordinary intelligence it would certainly appear that the training and general knowledge of the working branch of the legal profession would prove of special value on the Bench in various directions which need not be specified; and we venture to say that for general influence, a knowledge of the duties of a J. P. and of the requirements of the community, the amount of personal interests at stake in the colony, and for length of residence, the editors of the three local newspapers have far superior claims to nine out of every ten of the existing contingent. Personally we have no ambition to join the ranks of "the great unpaid," and doubtless our colleagues of the local press are of the same mind, but it would nevertheless be interesting to know why residents and rate-payers occupying leading and influential positions should, on account of their profession, which elsewhere ranks as high as any, be officially regarded and treated as the *pariahs* of the community.

**TELEGRAMS**  
**THE NETHERLANDS.**  
LONDON May 12th.  
The festivities in honour of the fortieth year of the reign of the King have been celebrated.

**THE GERMAN-AFRIAN EXPEDITION.**

Captain Wissman has been attacked by an Arab chief, who destroyed his camp, killing eighty of his men, losing forty blacks; several Germans were wounded.

(From the *Courier d'Haiphong*)

**THE FRENCH COLONIAL BUDGET.**

PARIS, May 4th.

The President of the Republic has approved, by a Decree, the special Budgets for Annam and Tonquin.

**ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT CARNOT.**

May 5th.

An attempt was made to assassinate the President of the Republic as he was leaving the Elysée to proceed to the Centenary festival at Versailles. The assassin fired a pistol shot at his victim, but missed. He was at once arrested.

**THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.**

The Centenary celebrations have taken place. The inaugural ceremony was most imposing. The President of the Republic was warmly welcomed.

May 6th.

The festival of the 6th May at Paris, on the occasion of the opening of the Exhibition, took place to-day and was splendid, when the President of the Republic was received with indescribable enthusiasm. The celebration was an enormous success.

**THE INDO-CHINA CUSTOMS TARIFF.**

May 8th.

The Council of State has accepted the proposal to increase the Indo-China Customs dues on textile fabrics only.

**LOCAL AND GENERAL.**

**THE Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Santor*,**

from Liverpool, left Singapore to-day, and is due here on the 20th inst.

**COUNT CAUVOUR,** the greatest of modern diplomats once predicted that the Roman Catholic Church, the most powerful of political bodies, will yet be converted to Socialism.

In the case of the four Japanese who were charged yesterday with the manslaughter of a Chinese man by causing him to jump off a launch and get drowned, Mr. Pollock discredited the evidence of the witnesses, and discharged the defendant with a caution.

The following changes in the French Consular service are reported by the *Courier d'Haiphong*:—M. Lequeux, Consul at Yokohama, has been transferred to Salonica, *vice* M. Pricot de Saint-Marie. M. Klobukowski substitutes M. Lequeux at Yokohama.

**MOK AYU** is a pariah who preys on Society, and he became so unpopular about March 1888 that he was ceremoniously taken over to China and told that his health would suffer if he ever stepped over the line again. He was in Wanchai yesterday, and in the dock this morning. He pleaded that he came over to see his mother. Mr. Wodehouse decided that if the old girl was to see him for the next twelve months she will have to do something, and get six months.

This launch of a new Japanese war-vessel, to be named the *Oshima Maru*, which is now in course of construction, at the Onohama Naval Shipbuilding Yard, at Kobe, will take place about the 20th inst.

**PRINCE KRAPOTKIN**, the famous Russian Nihilist, has decided to make London his home for the rest of his days. Krapotkin would never be taken for a Nihilist. He is gentle in manner and appearance, and has fine eyes—soft, frank—almost tender.

At the Police Court this morning, before Mr. Wodehouse, the Chinese storekeeper at the Messageries Maritimes godown was charged, with two confederates, with stealing some tinned provisions, &c., value \$3; from the godown at East Point. The Indian watchman went in yesterday afternoon and saw the trio eating condensed milk out of a tin, and arrested them. Inspector Swanton afterwards found other tins of milk and sardines in their quarters. They were remanded.

**DEVOTED WIFE:** "Have you any embroidered slippers?" Dealer: "Plenty of them. You wish for handkerchiefs, I presume?" "Yes, I want a pair that will look as if I took all the winter to do them." "Yes, madam, we have that kind; they make a man almost weep when he thinks of the days, and weeks, and months of silent labour all for him." "Well, here is my husband's measure. Don't send any extra for the soles. Charge him a few shillings extra for his next pair of boots."

"Blow, blow, thou winter wind," &c. This refers to the conduct of an almond-eyed Portuguese named da Luz, as narrated to Mr. Wodehouse this morning. Last month da Luz, who is a compositor, went to a compatriot and brother type in St. Francis Street, one Franco—and told such a pitiful tale that he was taken in and fed, and lodged, and found employment. On Sunday night he went into the bosom of the Franco family and said a lot of unpleasant things, till the police had to put the clout on him. Mr. Wodehouse bound him over to keep the peace, this morning.

**THE *Courier d'Haiphong*** reports that the sloop *Lach-tray*, owned by Messrs. Leroy-Cahors, merchants of Haiphong and Dap-cau, was proceeding up the Dap-cau river on the 5th inst. when after having passed Dong-trieu, she ran aground at Mac-donc. A well-armed band of pirates, taking advantage of her helpless condition, boarded her, plundered her cargo, and her correspondence, carried away a Winchester carbine and some ammunition, and killed two men. The next day the sloop arrived at Dap-cau with some slight damages.

MR. POLLOCK (if he will) only exchange his baronets for a bandage) only needs a pair of scales and a pedestal to be a sort of an imitation Justice. At the Police Court this morning he had before him a hukong named Mak Mao on a charge of taking bribes. The principal evidence was given by an informer, who alleged that one day last week he saw the hukong seize a street gambler and bribe for thirty cents hush money. His story was very circumstantial—he told first what the hukong said, then what the gambler replied, and so on, but in cross-examination by Mr. Denry, who defended, he contradicted himself considerably. A fellow-informer corroborated his statement, but it was so evidently a trumped-up case that his Worship did not call on the defence, but ordered the first witness to pay the hukong \$50 compensation, or go to prison for six months. The second witness was fined \$25 for giving false evidence.

ONE of the great desiderata in this land-locked colony is a suitable bathing place in the long summer months. The *Frays* which was formerly used for this purpose at Kowloon Point has recently been vetoed, and Stone-cutters' Island forbidden, there is almost no place left for sea-bathing, excepting the enclosure of the Victoria Recreation Club, which is getting every year more objectionable on account of the accumulation of the foreshore deposits. Under the circumstances, we think if any enterprising *baigneur* would build a floating bath and have it anchored in mid-harbour, say in the neighbourhood of Kellet Island, or near the Kowloon Dock, where the tides are strong, he would satisfy a very pressing demand and reap substantial profits in the bargain. The hull of some old ship might be purchased and outworks constructed all round her, with floors, partitions, etc., to enable bathers to enjoy a real sea-bath in mid-harbour, without danger or inconvenience. A steam launch might be made to leave Peddar's Wharf and return at stated times, and season tickets issued to bathers of all classes. Floating bath-houses are to be seen at Venice, on the Tagus at Lisbon, at Margate, and on the Mersey. They are calculated to give all the advantages of deep sea bathing without the faintest element of danger. Hongkong should possess two or three of these useful floats.

On Saturday afternoon, says the *Yokohama Mail* of the 4th inst., a ceremony of a peculiar character took place at the great temple of Daishin-in. It was a Buddhist mass for the souls of the dead who perished nineteen years ago in the U.S.S. *Onida*. The loss of the *Onida* was the most terrible incident recorded in the annals of Yokohama. The ship left this port one winter's evening, homeward bound. She had been some time on the station, and the day of her departure was spent in leave-taking between her officers and those on shore, with whom they were deservedly popular, as she was clearing the bar and came into collision with the E. C. steamer *Bombay*, inward bound. Owing to the darkness and other causes, fully explained at the time, the *Bombay* failed to suspect the extent of the injuries suffered by the *Onida*, and the latter sunk in a few minutes, carrying down with her a hundred and twenty-four officers and men. During the years that have elapsed since the appalling incident most of the bodies, or at least their bones, have been recovered, some taken from the wreck, some washed ashore, and their interment from time to time, in the cemetery of the Settlement, has recalled the deed and circumstances of their death. Not long ago the remains of the last on the unhappily long roll were laid in the grave, and the Buddhist priests of Daishin-in, the principal temple in the vicinity of Yokohama, resolved to perform a grand mass for the peace of the souls of the dead. It was a resolve that many persons will doubtless find strange and incongruous, but of the charitable and benevolent spirit that actuated it, there can be little question. At any rate, the people of Yokohama showed that they appreciated the motive of the Buddhist priests, for despite the long distance from the Settlement, they attended the ceremony in large numbers. The Admiral of the U. S. Squadron, the U. S. Consul-General and some fifty leading residents of the Settlement were present. The mass was chanted by seventy priests, clad in full canonicals, and no accessory was neglected to enhance the gorgeousness and impressiveness of the scene. Such events certainly tend to draw closer the bonds of union between Japan and the various nationalities to whom she has extended her hospitality, and in the dock this morning, they reminded us of the fact that even through the saddest pages of the history of our intercourse with Japan, that "enduring purpose," spoken of by poets, runs unbroken and unweakened.

At the end of last year the number of Japanese in Vladivostok and neighbourhood was 614, of whom 252 were males and 362 females.

We are informed by the agents (Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.) that the steamship *Port Adelaide*, from Antwerp, left Singapore yesterday afternoon for this port.

Our Haiphong contemporary says the Doc Qui was to have tendered his submission to the French and Annamite authorities on the 10th inst., with 200 partisans armed with breech-loading rifles.

A FRENCH scientist has come to the conclusion that we are traversing a "cold period." He notes that during the last four years there has been a considerable diminution in the average mean temperature.

ABOUT eleven o'clock this morning a fire was caused in the house 32, Ship Street, Wanchai. Some coolies put it out before it did much damage, and a woman was afterwards arrested on a charge of arson.

SEREBANT Butlin swooped down on a petty gambling-house in Wellington Street, last night, and found a lot of chair coolies challenging Fate, in the shape of P-o-t-y. The three presiding spirits got six weeks each, this morning.

A "THEATRE OF ACTUALITY" is to be established in London after the model of the French Theatre Libre. The idea is that authors may have the chance to produce their own plays without the intervention of the hated manager.

FIRST DAME—So all your daughters married rich? How did you manage it? Second DAME—From the moment they were big enough to understand anything I kept dinnings into their ears all sorts of warnings against the folly and wickedness of marrying for money.

An ingenious young Chinaman got three months this morning simply through overdoing his business. He cast little blobs of lead, silvered them over, and sold them at ridiculously low prices as suggests, and so supported an aged mother in comparative comfort. He swindled several money-changers, among others, but in attempting to pass one nugget in exchange for some opium he was detected, and sentenced as stated by an unappreciative Magistrate.

"FROM information received," Inspector Quincey went down with a lot of police to some houses in Wing Wo Street last night to rescue a crowd of kidnapped women and children. He found even more than he expected, there being about forty women, girls and children in suspected houses. He took the lot up to the Police Station, and handed them over to Inspector Hennessy, who was sorely troubled to accommodate them. They pervaded the Station all the evening, and the amount of nursing and general baby-farming that the Inspector and his aides had to do was tremendous. The case came up before Mr. Wodehouse this morning, four men and two women being charged with detaining the crowd, but it was made apparent that there was no detention, and after a lengthy hearing the case was dismissed.

**SUPREME COURT.**

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. A. G. Wist, Acting Puisne Judge.)

**A SHAREBROKER'S CLAIM.**

This was a claim for \$1,000, made by Mr. Hector Sampson, sharebroker, against Mr. George Fenwick, manager of Fenwick & Co. Limited. Mr. Webber appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hastings for Messrs. Wotton and Deacon for the defendant.

Mr. Webber, in opening the case, said that the claim was originally for \$1,500, commission at the rate of one per cent for promoting and being instrumental in floating the company of which the defendant was general manager, but it had been reduced to \$1,000 for the purpose of bringing it within the jurisdiction of that Court. Mr. Webber was then proceeding to show that the articles of the Company empowered the general manager to pay the cost of floating the Company, but

Mr. Hastings admitted the personality of his client.

Mr. Webber continued that about the end of February Mr. Fenwick met the plaintiff and told him he was about to turn his business into a limited liability company, and asked him if he would assist him in obtaining the names of capitalists and others who would take shares in it. He added that he wished it to be kept private, and gave the plaintiff to understand that he alone would have the placing of the shares. He also handed him a draft prospectus, and asked him to read it over and give him his opinion on it. The plaintiff did so, and made some alterations in it. The capital of the Company was to be \$150,000, divided into six thousand shares of \$25 each, of which the plaintiff was to have 800, having 5,200 to be allotted outside. But Mr. Fenwick had some private friends who wished to take shares, and this left only about four thousand shares to be allotted to the general public. After several interviews the plaintiff succeeded in finding applicants for the whole of the shares, being assisted, it was true, by Mr. Fenwick, who acted as joint promoter. The Company was floated without advertisements of any kind, it being understood that the names of applicants would be put in the hands of the plaintiff, and the plaintiff would have all the shares applied for allotted. The sum of \$1,500 was therefore claimed on the basis of one per cent on the capital, but the claim had, as he had said, been reduced for the purpose of bringing it before that Court. It was laid down by Storey, in the *Law of Agency*, that the commission charged by brokers or other agents should be regulated by the custom in that part of the world. Therefore if the plaintiff was not entitled to one per cent he was entitled to at least half a dollar per cent, for every share he obtained application for. That was fifty cents a share, and as it would appear in evidence that he was instrumental in disposing of four thousand shares it increased his rights very considerably. All he had to do was to obtain applicants, whether they got all the shares they applied for allotted or not.

His Lordship pointed out that he might have got applications for ten thousand shares.

Mr. Webber meant up to the four thousand open to the public. His contention would be supported by some of the leading brokers in the colony, the vendor paid half a dollar per share, and the buyer half a dollar, but the case the claim was simply against the vendor. Since the commencement of the suit the defendant had paid \$405 into Court, in two sums. He then read the letters which had passed. In the first the plaintiff said that half a dollar a share was the usual rate, but he would only charge a quarter, equal to one per cent. In reply Mr. Fenwick said he could not pay so much, and reminded Mr. Sampson that he was only asked to find applicants, and had himself offered to "put the thing through." He mentioned that the prospectus, &c., were all drawn up when the plaintiff was in the colony, and that he was in the colony at the time, and in offering \$250, said in giving him the disposal of the shares he was simply intending to "put something in his way."

The plaintiff was then called. He said:—My name is Hector Washington Sampson, and I am a sharebroker. I met the defendant, Mr. Fenwick, on the 29th February, and he said he was going to form "his business" into a limited liability company, and asked if I knew anyone who would take any shares. He gave me a draft prospectus and memorandum of Articles of Association, and I took them home and read them. I did not alter these, but did so in the proof. Mr. Fenwick remarked that it was "putting something in my way." I considered that I was engaged to float the company, as I was the only broker engaged, and all the shares Mr. Fenwick did not place I did. He said he would like the thing done privately. I asked a number of friends if they would like shares, but they asked for prospectuses, and as I had only one I got a hundred printed. I did that on my own responsibility. On the 4th March I got a proof, and whilst I was reading it in Kelly and Walsh's Mr. Fenwick came in, and at my suggestion alterations were made. He took some of them away, and I took the rest. I distributed them among my clients, and was successful in placing between 3,500 and 4,000 shares—Mr. Fenwick placed the rest. He said to me that I could promise my friends that every share I asked for on their behalf would be allotted. I took a note of any ordered, and told him I wanted so many. I supplied a list of applicants to Messrs. Wotton and Deacon, I had to go to them, but the custom here is to get applications, but there was a lot of work to do besides—Messrs. Wotton and Deacon began to cut down the number to be allotted, and I had to go round to the applicants and explain it. The company was not advertised at all. I think that it was through me that it was floated so successfully. All the shares were left in my hands—if Mr. Fenwick placed any shares he came and told me, so that I should not allot too many. I have been a broker here some time and consider my charge very moderate. There was no agreement as to what I should get, but the custom here is to get half a dollar for every share placed. At that rate I should be entitled to nearly \$2,000, having placed nearly four thousand shares, on the understanding that all I applied for should be given.

By Mr. Hastings:—I was a sharebroker in 1884, and again from last December. I have had no previous experience in floating companies. I met Mr. Fenwick at the horse auction on the 21st February. He did not ask me to take shares, but to place them. He did not tell me that he had some applications for shares, or show me a list of applicants. I placed nearly four thousand shares—that is to say I got applicants for nearly four thousand shares, but six thousand shares had been applied for. I had nearly four thousand shares placed, but after that Mr. Fenwick got more applicants, to the detriment of my clients. I do not know how many were allotted to my clients. I sent in my bill for \$1,500, as I thought it was the nicest way. I could either charge \$1 per share, which would have made my bill nearly \$4,000, or one per cent on the Company's capital, as I did.

By Mr. Webber:—Mr. Wotton told me to get Chinese into the Company, and gave me the names of some. By the Court:—There was no contract—it is not usual to have one. Mr. Danby of Messrs. Benjamin, and Danby, said:—I have been a broker three years. I do not know of any case like this having happened here before; but I think the plaintiff is fully entitled to fifty cents a share. From my knowledge of how hard he has worked I should think he is entitled to \$3,000. I would not have taken it in hand for less.

By Mr. Hastings:—It is not necessary to have an agreement. I have known cases like this where brokerage has been paid, but decline to say to whom.

By the Court:—If there was no agreement a broker would not be entitled to a commission on every share he placed—he might place ten thousand, although there were only five thousand shares.

Mr. Fraser-Smith:—I am the Editor and proprietor of the *Hongkong Telegraph* and know the parties in this case. Mr. Fenwick has seen me several times about this company—he has spoken about it several times during the last two or three years. I am a shareholder in the Company—I got my shares from Mr. Fenwick. I remember him asking me on one occasion, about a week before the Company was floated, if I thought he could float his business. I told him I was of opinion that he could, as it was, on the face of the prospectus, about the first legitimate Company that had been floated here for a long time. He said he had put it in Mr. Sampson's hands to do what he could. I said I thought Mr. Sampson was a very good man for the job. I do not know the custom with regard to brokerage in such matters.

By Mr. Hastings:—I did not anticipate any difficulty in floating the Company. I do not think I ever said \$400 or \$500 would cover all the cost of floating it—I am certain I did not.

At this point the case was adjourned until to-morrow.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

**THE CASE OF THE "OMEGA."**

To the Editor of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR,—Having seen your remarks about the British barque *Omega*, allow me to state for the benefit of the unemployed mate that the *Omega* is not the only craft that does sort of thing; there is another vessel in Hongkong now waiting for the same chance. This was not the first time our friend, Master Brown, managed to evade the law. Whose place is it to look after these things? The German mate had been in the ship over two years, at \$40 per month, and during that time the *Omega* had cleared at the Hongkong shipping office three times. Can any one inform me how it was the mate was allowed to leave in her? He would have been allowed to do the same thing this time had it not been for one, not interested in shipping, writing to the Harbour master to inform him. Allow me to state for the benefit of Captain Brown that he got off very well this time, but for his contriving to evade the law he was liable to conviction under the Merchant Shipping Act, and a heavy fine would have been inflicted on him, in default of which he would have to go to Gaol.

Now, as Master Brown blames an innocent man for that anonymous letter, as he is pleased to call it, and has written several letters to the different employers up the Coast and has sent postcards broadcast over the Colony with the intention of preventing the man from getting employment, I would like him to know that there is such a thing in Hongkong as the Law of libel, and that defaming a man's character with a malicious intent comes under that law.

Thanking you for the insertion of this letter, I remain, Sir,

Yours truly,

HONGKONG, 14th May, 1889.

**UNEMPLOYED.**

**CANTON.**

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Canton, 13th May, 1889.

The Consular flag, hoisted at half-mast this morning apprised the community that another noteworthy one had been "fired" across the

black river." It was with great regret I learnt it to be His Excellency Mr. Shida, the representative of His Imperial Japanese Majesty to the Court of Peking. Probably there was no more experienced statesman in far eastern politics than the lamented diplomatist who has somewhat prematurely passed away. Commencing life in the Foreign office of the Tycoonate, he soon acquired a knowledge of the Chinese language, while devoting all spare time to the study of Chinese character and literature, finally becoming one of the foremost scholars of Chinese in Tokyo. With the restoration of the ancient Imperial régime, he faithfully transferred his allegiance to the representative of the oldest sovereignty on earth, that of His Majesty the Mikado, appropriately named and understood as "the Venerable." Remarkable for a singularly courteous manner, he well represented the true connecting link between the gentlemen of the old and new Japanese schools, and his loss will be especially severely felt at the Foreign Office of Dai Nippon, with which he has so long been associated. It is a matter of regret that I cannot place a spray of "Tau-bai" on the pier of this lamented statesman as he now lies in the capital of that great Empire to which he devoted the study of his lifetime, so I content myself with waiting this hurried tribute







